

PORTSMOUTH LOCAL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

PORTSMOUTH AND NORFOLK COUNTY

What Virginian-Pilot Representatives Hear Daily.

BRIEF ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Movements of People in Whom the Average Reader is Interested—Happenings in Legal-Business, Religious and Social Circles—A Forecast of Future Events.

These looking for a nicely located front room with bath, will find what they want in this issue.

Captain T. N. Bartman, of Louisville, Ky., was in the city yesterday for a few hours. He is looking up a place to suit him in which to reside somewhere in this section.

Major J. E. M. Wright has returned from Baltimore, where he has been for two weeks at the bedside of his aged mother. He left her in a much better condition than when he reached her.

The physician, however, informed Maj. Wright on his leaving Baltimore, that he might be called back at any moment, as his mother may pass away at any moment.

Tom Reed, alias "Flink" Reed, for drunkenness was sent to jail yesterday by Justice Almsworth for a period of ten days.

Louise Taylor, a 14 year old colored boy, was sent to jail yesterday by Justice Almsworth for thirty days for stealing. Taylor used a big pair of shears on the wire grating in front of the store of Mr. M. C. Culpepper, and effecting an entrance into the store, proceeded to take a case of sardines and a can of beef, all of the value of \$2.

Mr. M. M. Crook left last night for New York to attend the furniture carnival in that city.

There were two drunks in the Mayor's Court yesterday. Both left collaterals and were allowed to go, there being no court in session.

Rev. Frank Hall is holding a successful meeting at Bedford. He has had quite a number of professions of faith.

A horse attached to Mr. Dewberry's delivery wagon fell on the ice on South street yesterday morning, hurting himself quite badly.

Sister Phoebe Hall is quite sick at her home in Washington, D. C.

A grocery store doing a good business is offered for sale. See advertisement.

Mr. R. S. Brooks will in a few days embark in the real estate and rental business.

Mr. Joseph A. Parker continues sick at his home on Court street.

There will be a meeting of the School Board Friday night.

Mr. Chas. Morgan, one of the letter carriers is still confined to his home from the effects of the injury he received in falling on the ice.

Gregory "Black Thorn" got a jail sentence yesterday for shooting "Dink" Walters. The county authorities gave him thirty days.

Medical Inspector Ferebee arrived in the city yesterday and at 2 o'clock in the afternoon assumed charge of the Naval Hospital. Ferebee's family will arrive next week.

To his residence on Crawford street, Mr. Win. Sherwood is confined with grip.

For persisting in running flat wheels on its cars, the regularly constituted officers of the Portsmouth Street Railway Co. will have to appear in the Police Court this morning to show cause, if they can, why a fine should not be imposed for violating the city ordinance in that particular.

The news that Mr. M. A. Irwin, who has been home for the past year, has returned to St. Mary's College, Belmont, N. C., to resume his studies for the Catholic priesthood will be appreciated by the young man's many friends who are glad that he has recovered from his recent sickness.

Mr. Willie Brady, a well known compositor of this city, and brother of Mr. John T. Brady, has been appointed to a position in the government printing office. The appointment was made through the Civil Service Commission.

The future president of the Seaboard Air Line, Mr. J. Skelton Williams, was in the city yesterday morning in consultation with vice-president St. John and other officials of the system. He went to Norfolk about midday.

Capt. S. R. Hutchins is improving slowly from his recent severe indisposition.

Capt. R. P. Bunting had Atlantic Company No. 1, U. R. K. of P., busy at drill last night, preparing for the parade of the first brigade, which occurs here this month.

The condition of Police Officer Edward Hartt has not improved sufficient as to lead his family and friends to hope for a speedy recovery.

Mr. James F. Pablo and sister, Miss Myrtle Pablo, are quite sick at their home, on Green street, with the grip.

The condition of Mr. Solomon L. Barrett has improved greatly in the past few days. He expects to be upon the streets as soon as good weather prevails.

Charles Cooley, a small colored boy, fell from the rear end of a wagon on High street last night and received a severe cut on his chin.

Mrs. Frank Hodges has returned from a visit to Baltimore.

Mrs. Col. K. R. Griffin and daughter, Miss Rosa, are both ill with grip.

Major R. E. Warren is out after an illness of ten days from grip.

Mr. S. S. Armstrong lost a fine horse by death from lockjaw yesterday morning. The animal was one of the finest draft horses in the city and was highly valued.

To-day is ground hog day. If he comes out and sees his shadow he will go back and remain six weeks. But should he fail to see it it is said that the backbone of the winter is over.

Rev. Mr. Beadles was unable to fill his pulpit last night on account of sickness.

Pythian entertainment to-night on account of the weather. The hall will be well heated.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

Surgeon L. B. Baldwin, detached from the naval recruiting rendezvous at New York and ordered home.

Chief Engineer J. McElmell, detached as president of the Naval Examining Board at Philadelphia and ordered home.

Assistant Engineer J. A. Henderson, detached from the Bureau and Steam Engineering and ordered home.

Passed Assistant Engineer L. W. Wooster, detached from the naval rendezvous at Chicago and ordered home.

Passed Assistant Engineer L. W. Robinson, ordered to the recruiting rendezvous at Chicago.

Naval Constructor Hoover, retired, detached from duty at Morris Heights and ordered home.

Lieutenant A. J. Dabney, detached from hydrographic work and ordered home.

Naval Constructor W. L. Montonye, detached from the navy-yard and ordered home.

Chief Engineer C. H. Loring, detached from the Morgan and Quintard Iron Works and ordered home.

Current D. W. Perry, ordered to examination for promotion.

Lieutenant E. S. Jacob, detached from the Navigation Bureau and ordered home.

Naval Constructor R. W. Steele, retired, detached from the navy-yard, New York, and ordered home.

Lieutenant N. L. T. Halpine, detached from the Boston Hydrographic Office and ordered home.

Lieutenant L. Flynn, detached from duty at Philadelphia and ordered home.

Lieutenant W. M. Little, detached from the naval station at Newport and ordered home.

Ensign W. J. Terhune, detached from the Tormentor and ordered to the Alliance.

Lieutenant G. F. Cooper, detached from the Naval Academy and ordered to the Equipment Bureau.

Lieutenant Commander E. M. Stedman, detached from duty with the Omaha Exposition and ordered home.

Lieutenant C. J. Badger, detached from the Cincinnati and ordered to the Bureau of Equipment.

Lieutenant H. P. McIntosh, detached from the Navigation Bureau.

Commander Z. L. Tanner, detached from the Navigation Bureau.

Lieutenant A. H. Cobb, detached from duty in connection with the war board.

The Badger has sailed to join Dewey, clearing Tuesday morning for Port Monroe for Bahia, Brazil. She is going by way of the Straits of Magellan, and carries a full supply of naval stores.

The Castles bound for Manila, also, sailed from the eastern route, having reported sailing from Punta del Gorda for Gibraltar. The Helena, another of our gunboats bound out to Manila, arrived yesterday at Colombo, Ceylon. The Brooklyn arrived at Havana yesterday from Key West.

The Brooklyn, with Assistant Secretary Allen aboard, returning from Cuba, arrived at Key West Tuesday. Mr. Allen is expected to arrive in Washington to-day. The Nero, which was arrived at Mare Island, Cal., and been put out of commission. The Nashville has sailed for Matanzas. The Wilmington has ascended the Orinoco river to Ciudad Bolivar. The Vicksburg and Annapolis have arrived at St. Thomas.

Upon the application of the citizens of the places named the Navy Department has assigned the following naval vessels to represent the navy during the Mardi Gras festivities about February 15. The Detroit at New Orleans, the Nashville at Mobile and the Texas at Galveston.

The cruiser Philadelphia sailed Tuesday from San Diego, bound, according to the official announcement, for Samoa, though she will touch en route at Honolulu. She should, according to all calculation, arrive at Apia about the 1st of March, and by a curious coincidence, that is about the date of the arrival at the same place of the American fleet which was destroyed in a harbor by the great hurricane just ten years ago. The Philadelphia is fully equal in offensive power to the combined force of the two foreign warships now in the harbor of Apia.

ONLY ONE FARE NOW.

The Portsmouth Street Railway Company Will Transfer Passengers From All Points.

For some time the Portsmouth Street Railway Company has been requiring passengers who go from Park View to other portions of the city to pay two fares; also for those who desire to take the County street car and transfer to Park View car to pay two fares, unless the party goes to Godwin street and waits until a car comes to take them where they want to go, and oftentimes they had to wait for fifteen minutes.

The charge caused so much dissatisfaction that the company have decided to go back to the old rule and transfer from all points, and yesterday put the same into operation. The old rule will continue in force. The public will appreciate the change and the company will be benefited by the same.

THE BUGGY WAS WRECKED.

Yesterday morning one of the Portsmouth street railway cars and a buggy belonging to Mr. O. L. Williams, which was driven by Mr. Martin Westbrook, collided on the corner of South and Eppingham streets. From what the representative could learn the car was coming down Eppingham street, the motorist ringing the bell, and that Mr. Westbrook attempted to cross, and in doing so the buggy was struck by the end of the car, cutting the front wheels off and breaking the shafts.

The horse was thrown down, but Mr. Westbrook was unhurt. He claims that no bell was being rung, and that he did not see the car until it was on top of him.

The Railroad Company claim that they have witnesses to prove that the car was running slowly, and the bell was ringing. It may end in the courts.

EVENTS TO-DAY.

Chambers Steam Fire Engine Co., Volunteer Firemen.

Farragut Post, No. 1, G. A. R.

Atlantic Lodge, No. 21, K. of P.

John W. Daniel Club, political.

Grace Lodge, No. 83, I. O. O. F.

Portsmouth Conclave, No. 15, I. O. H. F.

Portsmouth Council, No. 106, Jr. O. U. A. M.

Wilson Lodge, No. 95, O. of G. C.

Joseph H. Plunkett Council, No. 473, C. B. L.

AN ACCIDENT.

PORTSMOUTH IS A CITY.

Following Plain Facts Will Bear Out That Assertion.

That Portsmouth, Va., is a city is evidenced by the fact that she has the most efficient volunteer fire department in America, an excellent police force, telegraph and telephone lines, electric street car lines, equipped with comfortable cars, energetic, painstaking and efficient city officers, the Third Battalion Virginia Infantry, the proud possessors of the finest battery of artillery in the South, the best equipped, largest and most notable navy yard in this country, the terminus of three of the largest trunk lines of railroads, the headquarters of the great Seaboard Air Line system, the terminus of the largest and best passenger and freight steamers traveling the bay or ocean, the banner city of Virginia of Old Dominion ship and Pythianism, the possessor of the finest Pythian Castle in the South, a population of thirty thousand people, the finest churches, both white and colored, as fine a system of public schools as can be found, the best and cheapest market in the State, a class of business men that will reflect credit upon any community, a geographical position far superior to any city in the United States, a climate healthful and invigorating, the most beautiful women, the handsomest and most energetic men, the handsomest monument to the Confederate dead to be found within the borders of the State, three banks noted for their business acumen and financial strength, two express companies, a cotton mill, the product of which is in continuous demand by Northern buyers, streets excellently lighted by electricity, the best system of sewerage, the prettiest and most costly private residences, the best and prettiest water front known, excellent physicians and a strong bar, a railroad shops, the widest and prettiest streets in the State, the location of the Marine Hospital, which is the property of the Government, the handsomest horses and carriages, both private and public, two of the prettiest parks in this section, an ice factory, large planing mills, enormous wholesale houses, three splendid hotels, the best stores, a fine armory and market building, the King's Daughters Hospital (a charitable institution), a Y. M. C. A., three brass bands, the finest water in the world, excellent and cheap gas, the best kept, most commodious and healthful jail, less crime than in any other city in Virginia, less contagious or other diseases, a back country of 80 miles, home of the commandant of this naval station, clean in politics and the Gibraltar of Democracy in Virginia, the county seat of Norfolk county, half owner of the ferries plying between Portsmouth, Berkley and Norfolk, a Jewish synagogue, a basket factory, a paper-bag factory, cigar factories, a corps of the most efficient contractors in every line of building, the finest mechanics, the brightest children, the best oyster packing establishments, marine and naval recruiting station, the finest and most efficient ship-builders in the world, the home of the Texas, the Raleigh and the Galena, the contributor of as fine a company of volunteer soldiers now in Havana as ever shouldered muskets, and to the cause of Confederacy more soldiers than any other city in the South, every description of land and water, electric light plants, Virginia Chemical Works, and a hundred different matters which go to make up a clean, thriving, prosperous city such as the people of Portsmouth have and are proud to own.

KEROSENE CLAIMS ANOTHER VICTIM.

Mary Scott, An Aged Colored Woman, Burned to Death.

Information reached this office yesterday from Rodman's Station of the horrible death of an old colored woman named Mary Scott, who lives near the station. Our informant said that the old woman was all alone in the house, and attempted to kindle a fire with kerosene oil. By some means the oil in the can ignited and exploded, setting fire to her clothing. She then ran into the road; the wind fanned the flames and caused them to burn more fiercely. She made every effort to put the fire out, and finding she could not do so, made her way back into the house, which caught fire from her clothing. Some of the neighbors seeing the fire ran there and managed to put it out, but were unsuccessful in saving the woman's life. She died in a few minutes after they got to her.

THE FIRE YESTERDAY AFTER-NOON.

The alarm of fire sent in yesterday afternoon about 3:20 o'clock sent the department to the place of business of Mr. Henry Bernard, on High street, where it was discovered that the interior of the store was ablaze.

The fault lies with the stove-pipe, as the fire in which it entered. At any rate the wall-paper was burned from the side walls and ceiling in the room, with other damage, which is covered by insurance to the amount of \$800. Mr. Bernard kept the fire under control by attaching his sheet hose to the water works hydrant, which, in conjunction with the chemical apparatus of the Hook and Ladder, succeeded in extinguishing the flames, without the use of steam force.

TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLAR SUIT.

Although it has been a matter of record for several days, it has just leaked out that in the Circuit Court, through Messrs. Green and Peterson, attorneys, suit had been entered by Thomas Green against Mr. W. C. Burrus for \$20,000 damages, for injuries received from the latter's dogs. Green has since died, but the case will come to trial. Green was a working man, and it is alleged had permission to pass through Mr. Burrus' grounds, near the Lambert Point. One morning Mr. Burrus' bull dogs attacked Green, terribly lacerating the man's limbs. Burrus had him sent to the hospital and bore all of the expenses, but Green died from the terrible injuries received. Before he died, however, he entered the suit, and the case will probably be heard by a jury at the May term of court.

THE MORTUARY REPORT.

Through the courtesy of the Health Officer we give below the mortuary report for January, 1899, and a comparative statement for 1898:

Total number of deaths in January, 1899, 28; in January, 1898, 16.

Of this number 15 were white females, 8 colored females; 11 white males, and 4 colored males.

More than two-thirds of those who died were people who came to the city recently. Three of the number had been here for only two or three days.

Try 15c boys' black hose, two pairs for 25c. Heavy ribbed. Charles R. Walton & Co.

SOLDIER LIFE IN HAVANA

Interesting Story of a Cuban Bone Pile.

THE OLD DOMINION GUARDS

Last Meeting Place of the "Maine Victims" Firemen's Monument - Curious Cave Found Near the Sea - Many Americans Arriving - Frantic Search for "Soldier Jim" - Getting Tired of Army Life.

Camp Mariano, Havana, Cuba, Jan. 27.

Virginian-Pilot, Portsmouth Office:

After a hearty repast of bread, coffee and rice, I will, if not interrupted by one Bob Myers (who is trying to memorize his "General Orders" backwards) tell the home folks how time is passed in our camp. To-day, as usual, starts in with all the appearance of being a "warm member," and the lads will not juggle the "crack-a-jack" riles, but rocks instead—poor things. Since our stay here the boys of the Old Dominion Guard are daily taking in the many sights in and around camp. Sunday three members and a scribe strolled out of camp in search of the cemetery where the Maine victims are buried. After walking for two hours over a dozen almost perpendicular hills and held up by thirteen provost guards we found ourselves at the main entrance of the great cemetery, and at once began necking in every opening that could be found.

Our guide, Sergeant Burton, formed the acquaintance of a Cuban attendant who volunteered to show us the sights within its walls. First was the morgue where the dead bodies are prepared for burial by sprinkling a thick coat of lime over the deceased, after which the body is placed in a grave. Then rest begins, and if the long-green don't come up regularly the bones are dug up and consigned to the bone pit in another part of the cemetery.

THE MAINE DEAD.

A visit was then made to the graves of the Maine sailors, a government square in the central part of the cemetery, where a common wood crate marks the last resting place of the dead heroes, with the following inscription thereon: "Maine Victims."

After having our pictures taken over the graves with uncovered heads, our Cuban friend led us to the great home hall, which is enclosed by a high stone wall; but all eager to see inside at once crawled to the top to satisfy our curiosity. Such a sight we had never witnessed! Thousands of skulls and cross-bones, all bleached white by the tropical rains and sunshine. A number of soldiers carried a few of the grinning skulls to camp as souvenirs.

FIREMEN'S MONUMENT.

Then a start was made for the firemen's monument, which was erected to perpetuate the memories of the gallant firemen who perished in the great Havana fire of '31.

A number of soldiers discovered a cave near the seashore last week, and daily numbers go to get a peep in the dark hole. Those who ventured in saw sights indeed. While exploring the interior they encountered thousands of bats, owls and land crabs. Saturday and Sunday will be grand days at the cave. A number from our camp will go and get snap shots to mail home.

AMERICANS ARRIVING.

Americans are arriving on every mail steamer, and Havana will in a short time have the appearance of a metropolitan American city. Havana, in fact, is a regular Klondike for the thrifty American mechanics, plumbers, painters and carpenters. Newspaper compositors get 88 cents per thousand and nonpareil leaders.

"Soldier Jim," who sends an occasional letter home, is not known here, or can't be found in camp, as the boys are hunting his sculp for publishing an exaggerated letter about this camp, which has a tendency to set the folks at home "bug-house." Saturday and Sunday five passes are issued from each company to visit Havana and Morro Castle.

Thirteen hundred Cubans constitute the street gang in the city, and are daily cleaning up the narrow streets and alleys. Lieutenant Enos, of the Guards, has been detached from this company to command a company of regulars while on provost guard in the city.

The boys are beginning to get tired of the army life, and would like to get back home sometime soon. There are several very bad cases of homesickness here; or it might be that they don't put cologne in their letters.

"OLD DOMINION GUARD."

A PINNER'S POINT WEDDING.

Last night at 8:30 o'clock at the residence of Mr. J. H. Marshall, on Seaboard avenue, Pinner's Point, Miss Estelle Wyatt, daughter of Mr. A. G. Wyatt, of the county of King and Queen, was led to the matrimonial altar by Mr. Frederick A. Cain, of Pinner's Point.

Rev. Dr. A. B. Dunaway joined the high contracting parties as man and wife according to the ritual of the Baptist Church, after which numerous friends congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Cain and wished them God speed in all that pertains to a life of happiness and sunshine.

Mr. Cain occupies the position of foreman carpenter for the Norfolk and Carolina Chemical Company. The future home of the newly wedded lady and gentleman will be at Pinner's Point.

DEATH OF A LITTLE CHILD.

Mr. and Mrs. James S. Peed lost by death yesterday their little daughter Doris, aged two years, 7 months and 21 days. The little one was a bright child and the pet of the family. She was sick for but a short while when the lay hand of Death was laid upon her, and her little soul wended its way to Him who hath said, "Let the little ones come unto Me. The parents are almost heart-broken over the loss of their little one. The funeral will take place this afternoon at 3 o'clock from their residence, No. 129 Washington street. The remains will be interred in Cedar Grove cemetery.

OTHER PORTSMOUTH LOCAL ON PAGE 11

DIED.

PEED—At the residence of her parents, 129 Washington street, Portsmouth, Va., at 6:40 a. m., February 1, 1899, DORIS, infant daughter of James N. and Mattie C. Peed, aged 2 years, 7 months and 21 days.

Funeral services will take place from the residence THIS (Thursday) AFTER-NOON at 3 o'clock. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend. Interment in Cedar Grove cemetery.

SPECIAL MEETING.

Seaboard and Roanoke R. R. Co., Office Portsmouth, Va., Feb. 1, 1899.

AT THE REQUEST OF STOCKHOLDERS holding more than one-tenth of the capital stock of this company, a special meeting of stockholders will be held at the office of the company in Portsmouth, Va., on TUESDAY, the 7th day of March next, at 10 o'clock a. m.

By order of the President, WM. W. CHAMBERLAINE, Secretary.

FOR SALE.—A GROCERY STORE doing a good business; also fixtures and Show Cases; will be sold cheap. Apply on southeast corner of Queen and Godwin streets.

FOR RENT.—A NICELY LOCATED front room, with privilege of bath. Apply at 41 Court street.

FOR SALE.—A MILK DAIRY doing a prosperous business. Will sell cheap for cash. First-class opportunity for a live man. Address I. X. L., Virginian-Pilot office, Portsmouth.

WANTED.—A POSITION AS SALESMAN, several years experience; good references. Address B., Virginian-Pilot office.

A HOUSE AND 2 LOTS FOR SALE or for rent, at north end of Cook street, Park View, Portsmouth, by E. J. MEARS. Apply on premises. ja29-1w

"Indapo"

Made a well Man of Me in 30 days.

This old, yet marvelous, Indapo Remedy for men cures all Nervous Diseases, Failing Memory, Night Sweats, Sleeplessness, Loss of Energy, Overwork, past excesses or early abuses. Prevents insanity, enlarges shrunken organs and restores youth and vigor in old or young within 30 days. Price \$1.00 a package; \$12 for \$5.00, with written guarantee to cure or money refunded. Indapo can be had of druggists named below, or, if preferred, we will send a prepaid securely packed receipt of price. Book of value free. H. B. WILKINS & CO., Proprietors, 111 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Indapo can be had of druggists named below, or, if preferred, we will send a prepaid securely packed receipt of price. Book of value free. H. B. WILKINS & CO., Proprietors, 111 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Indapo can be had of druggists named below, or, if preferred, we will send a prepaid securely packed receipt of price. Book of value free. H. B. WILKINS & CO., Proprietors, 111 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Indapo can be had of druggists named below, or, if preferred, we will send a prepaid securely packed receipt of price. Book of value free. H. B. WILKINS & CO., Proprietors, 111 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Special Offers!

Pure Creamery Butter, Best Eggs, 1 lb. package, 10c. Oranges, 12c. per dozen. 2 lb. can Armour's Roast Beef, 60c. Best 10c. Laked Beans, 2 lb. cans, 60c. Fresh lot Imported Sliced Ham, 25c. per dozen. Select Mixed Nuts, 10c. per lb. Don't forget our Famous Brand Peaches, 25c. per can. This is below the market value of this peach. Just received a fresh lot of our Ear-Knot, Sun-cured Peaches, 10c. per lb.

C. W. HUDGINS & CO. Both Phones, 402 Crawford street, de26a

FOR RENT.

Three-story Warehouse, No. 610 Crawford street, excellent location for a grocery, notion, hardware or commission house; rent, \$25 per month.

JNO. L. WATSON, 250 High street, Portsmouth, Va.

H. B. WILKINS

—HAS A CHOICE LOT OF—

Clean Free-Burning Stove and Nut Coal

JUST FROM THE MINES.

'Phone 2115.

FOR ONE WEEK ONLY!

Any Men's Suit in Our Window,

\$5.90

WORTH DOUBLE THE MONEY.

Biggest thing ever offered—see them.

Big Cut in Children's Clothing,

to close out balance of Winter Stock.

UNDERWEAR AND SHIRTS BELOW COST.

NEW YORK CLOTHING CO.,

(THE LEADING HOUSE OF PORTSMOUTH)

211 HIGH STREET, PORTSMOUTH, VA.

A Case of Grippe

Carr's Anti-Grippe Pills cure all cases of Grippe, far superior to any quinine compound on the market. They have a powerful effect on head, headache, pains in back and chest, aching in limbs and joints, you need Carr's Anti-Grippe Pills, 25c. box. They are a dead shot to Grippe. When you are troubled with an old lingering cough you should take Carr's Cough Balsam. Mr. L. L. Lester says: I had an old lingering grippe cough, which nothing else would effect; took Carr's Cough Balsam and was speedily cured. 25c. bottle.

Jerome P. Carr

—Wholesale and Retail Druggists— Corner Court and County and Green, near Hart street.

All Patent Medicines at Cut Rates.

The Norfolk County Ferries

—FOR—

LEASE!

Whereas, by virtue of Section 1371 of the Code of Virginia, edition 1871, as amended by an Act of the General Assembly of Virginia, approved February 21, 1888, the Council of the City of Portsmouth and Board of Supervisors of Norfolk County are authorized, if they deem best for the interest of said city and county, after advertising the same for thirty days previous to the day of lease, to lease out the Ferries which now ply by authority of law,